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March 19, 2012

The Honorable Julius Genachowski, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Light Squared

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I have written a number of letters to public officials, indicating my support of the network proposed to be developed by LightSquared. I now write to ask the FCC to help LightSquared find a solution that would allow it to build its new 4G LTE network on some other portion of the bandwidth, if the portion originally assigned to it cannot be used.


I serve as County Attorney for Breathitt County, Kentucky. I am the elected prosecutor for misdemeanor crimes within that county, originate prosecutions for all crimes within our court system, and I serve as general counsel for the county government. I work closely with first responders in our county. I have told you in the past that LightSquared has a long history of assisting public safety officials in Kentucky, through its former SkyTerra line of satellite telephones.

That history was repeated last week, when LightSquared provided a number of satellite phones and other communications equipment to Kentucky's first responders, who were called upon to give disaster relief because of the tornadoes which struck Eastern Kentucky. The devastation in property and human suffering was immense. I have never seen anything like it in all the years I have lived in Kentucky, and no one I know has, either. If LightSquared had not provided this equipment, our first responders would have been seriously handicapped in their efforts to provide disaster relief to the people of our region. Because of that equipment, they were able to coordinate their efforts and perform admirably.

I understand that the FCC has a variety of goals with regard to providing cell service to rural America. I know that complete rural broadband coverage is a goal, and I know that using all of the spectrum available to us is also a goal of the FCC. LightSquared, a private company, is in a position to meet these goals without the use of any taxpayer funds. I can personally attest that the residents of the rural portions of our nation need this service, and I urge the FCC to do everything within its power to allow LightSquared to achieve its goals.

I understand that the FCC has decided that LightSquared cannot use the portion of bandwidth originally assigned to it. I would urge the FCC help LightSquared find another portion of the bandwidth to use, and that it facilitate the process in any manner allowed by law. As I have written in the past, this is a vital issue to Kentucky, not only to our first responders, but for economic development as well. This is a poor region, and it is made poorer by the lack of good, reliable cell phone and wireless internet service.

Therefore, I urge the FCC to help LightSquared find a solution that would allow it to build its revolutionary new network. My county, and the entire mountain region of Kentucky need this service, and they need it now. I understand that the FCC has many competing priorities, but I urge it to make helping LightSquared an important priority.

Sincerely,

Brendan D. Miller
Breathitt County Attorney